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## NONMETALLIC MINERAL INDUSTRY MECHANIZES

SALT INDUSTRY BACK TO PREWAR LEVEL -- Sovetskaya Moldaviya, No 231, 20 Sep 48

The salt industry of the country has reached the prewar production level and mining is now completely mechanized. Cutters, scraper hoists, and motor and electric cars are widely employed in mines, and powerful salt pumps are used to extract salt from lakes. Salt extraction is increasing rapidly. Lake Raskunchak and the "Artemelski" Mines alone yield as much salt as pre-revolutionary Russia produced.

DIATOMITE PLAYS VARIABLE ROLE -- Zarya Vostoka, No 186, 10 Sep 48

The diatomite found at Akhaltsikhe is a valuable mineral. It is used in many branches of USSR industry, i.e., in the production of storage batteries and rubber, and in petroleum refineries, cement works, and chemical plants.

Since October 1947, Gruzdiatomit (Georgian Diatomite) has been extracting the mineral underground. Conversion to underground extraction has permitted Gruzdiatomit miners to fulfill the 1948 plan by 1 September. In 8 months the increase in labor productivity has amounted to 145 percent. Through a reduction in costs, 264,000 rubles were saved.

SULFATE COMBINE FULFILLS PLAN -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 183, 14 Sep 48

Workers of "Aralsulfat" Combine have completed the year plan for sulphate production. Tens of thousands of tons more were produced than in the corresponding period of 1947.

MICA FACTORY TO MAKE NEW PRODUCT -- Leninskoye Znanya, No 179, 7 Sep 48

The Petrozavodsk Mica Factory (director, M. K. Bogdanov) has not only effected a saving of 900,000 rubles, a sum equivalent to the former subsidy, but will save an additional 500,000 rubles, due to the installation of new machines. By 15 September, the factory will be equipped with an air separator for grading mica. This piece of equipment will replace ten workers currently engaged in the operation. A new machine will also be installed which will turn out crushed mica, an especially valuable product, which the factory has never produced before.

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